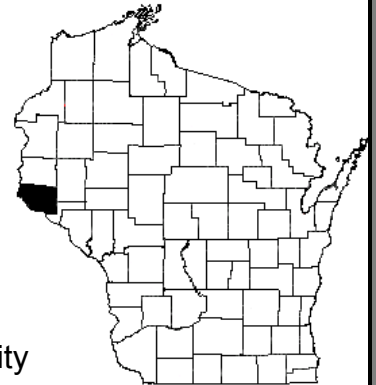




Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Pierce County



County characteristics

- 591 sq. mi.
- Exceptional coulee streams and forests alternating with farmland on the more level terrain
- 32 miles of the Mississippi and St Croix rivers, 47 trout streams and 2 inland lakes
- Rapid residential growth in the northwest part of the county due to proximity to Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area
- There are 38,615 residents living in Pierce County

State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 2,620 acres of Wildlife, Fisheries, Streambank Protection and Natural Areas.
- 1,239 acre Kinnickinnic State Park



Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- DNR Baldwin Service Center supports Pierce County: 890 Spruce Street 54002, 3 Wildlife, 2 Fisheries staff, 1 Warden Supervisor and 2 Customer Service staff. Staff serves St. Croix, Polk, Pierce, Pepin and Dunn Counties.
- River Falls - 1 Conservation Warden – Ellsworth - 1 (Vacancy) Conservation Warden Mississippi River Work Unit: 2 Fisheries staff (Alma), 2 Wildlife staff (LaCrosse)

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- In cooperation with local fishing clubs and governmental agencies, restore self-sustaining trout populations through in-stream habitat improvement and erosion control.
- Protect trout streams through acquisition of streambank protection easements.
- Manage fish populations and habitat in area lakes, rivers and streams
- Set fishing regulations, stock trout and evaluate success
- Restore fish and wildlife habitat on the Mississippi River.
- Establish and maintain grassland, wetland and woodland habitat on 4 fish and wildlife properties; assist in management of 5 Natural Areas.
- Coordinate grants and partnerships with other agencies and conservation groups for acquisition and habitat projects.
- Carry out fish, wildlife, environmental and habitat enforcement
- Numerous investigations into gross over-limit violations of game fish on the Mississippi River.

- Prevent and control exotic and invasive species such as zebra mussels, Asian carp, purple loosestrife, wild parsnip, spotted knapweed, boxelder and black locust to maintain quality native habitat.
- Post public hunting, fishing and access sites, build and maintain parking areas.
- Monitor local fish and wildlife populations including trout and other gamefish, waterfowl, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, deer, and eagles.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints; investigate fish kills; monitor fish and wildlife contaminants and diseases including CWD, West Nile Virus, and mercury in fish.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts; work to keep habitats intact and functional for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations, civic groups and youth programs. Respond to numerous day-to-day requests for information
- On the entire Mississippi River bordering Wisconsin, continue to add at least 400 restored acres per year to the 7,100 acres completed since 1989
- Work with federal agencies to leverage over \$500,000/year for Mississippi River habitat work using \$38,000/year of state money.
- Continue to leverage \$430,000/year in federal money to monitor fish, invertebrates, plants and water quality on the Mississippi River
- Manage and monitor recreational and commercial fisheries on the Mississippi River.



Fish & Wildlife Stocking

Summary

- 103,700 fingerling and 105,000 brown trout fry stocked in the Rush, Eau Galle, Trimbelle rivers and Isabelle Creek annually
- 5,800 walleye stocked in Nugget Lake biannually
- 1 Day-Old-Chick club stocks 4,400 pheasants annually

Pierce County Conservation Snapshots

14 ALIS License Agents Supported
6 Deer, Turkey and Bear Registration Stations
75-100 Hotline Complaints Investigated yearly
158 Miles of Trout Streams
7 Public Boat Landings

County Success Stories

- Pierce County is blessed with some of the best trout streams in the state. The Rush and Kinnickinnic rivers have national recognition. With the assistance of local conservation groups, 20 habitat restoration projects have been completed since 1986. The Eau Galle River in Spring Valley is currently under restoration.
- DNR acquisition of land provides a wide variety of properties for public enjoyment, from Mississippi River islands and backwaters to trout streams, pheasant habitat, forests and bluff prairies.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management